



# back in the USSR



trollcatz

 **trollcatz**

<https://trollcatz.livejournal.com/2008-06-03> 09:40:00

MOOD:  indescribable

MUSIC: John Hiatt - Cry Love

Man, the office is quiet this morning.

It was an Interesting Week\* last week, and I think everybody is still recuperating or taking care of neglected business. Still, one thing about this job is that you appreciate the little things. Like my own bed, which I got to sleep in last night for the first time in far too long. And the person in it, who was happy to see me. And knowing where all my friends and family are, and that they're safe.

I've been having this recurring nightmare where I know somebody's gone missing but I don't know who or where, and I can't find anybody to tell them about it so we can *do something*. Man, I hate that dream.

\*I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you. And then they'd take my gun away.



## Thank you

This is Patricia Andreoli, wife of Daphne Worth, who you all knew as Trollcatz. Daphne died

## ...And there goes the weekend

But hey, we got a day and a half of this one! And I got to sleep in for two whole mornings. Too bad

## As a law

enforcement  
professional--

66 comments



 **batwrangler**

June 3 2008, 13:47:35 UTC

COLLAPSE

I'm glad everyone's safe: it's scary when you guys go all radio-silence on us.



 [trollcatz](#)

[June 3 2008, 13:50:02 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

From here, too!



 [tsiankiio](#)

[June 3 2008, 13:53:46 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

I hate that dream. A lot. That and the dream where your driving up a hill and it gets stepper and stepper until it goes past vertical and you fall. Anyway, glad you're back home and safe.



 [fidelioscabinet](#)

[June 3 2008, 14:07:46 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Welcome home.

I have to tell you, as you get older, no matter why you travel, it becomes nicer and nicer to get back home.



 [tamnonlinear](#)

[June 3 2008, 14:24:14 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

*I've been having this recurring nightmare where I know somebody's gone missing but I don't know who or where, and I can't find anybody to tell them about it so we can do something. Man, I hate that dream.*

Who is the third who walks always beside you?  
When I count, there are only you and I together  
But when I look ahead up the white road  
There is always another one walking beside you  
- T. S. Eliot, [The Waste Land](#)

Evidently these lines from the poem "were stimulated by the account of one of the Antarctic expeditions (I forget which, but I think one of Shackleton's): it was related that the party of explorers, at the extremity of their strength, had the constant delusion that there was one more member than could actually be counted."

(I apologize for the fact that this comment has a ridiculous excess of quoting in it.)

A few nights ago I had a moment of panic when I was feeding my cats and there were two empty bowls (I have  $n+1$  number of food dishes down. This reduces, but does not eliminate, the amount of food-related squabbling among the house lords). I *could not remember* how many cats I had, and I couldn't figure out who was missing. I counted and counted and thought and couldn't figure out who wasn't there. It was terribly distressing, not just because of the frustration of the inability to complete a simple task, but because of the fear that who ever wasn't there was in danger, and more that I was failing them by not remembering them; even if they were fine, something was wrong if their name didn't spring to mind, *forgetting alone* was neglect.

Then I realized Ten and her brother Orpheus were sharing a bowl. With their tails wrapped together, because they are sweet like that. Which explained the extra empty bowl.

Not one of my brightest moments. I hadn't been sleeping well. I went to bed early.

I feel better now.

And few things in life feel as good as being safely home. Home ought to be defined by the place where you know you are safe and loved. I'm glad you're back.



**trollcatz**

June 3 2008, 14:53:42 UTC

COLLAPSE

Everybody safe and accounted for. It's the whole reason to go to work in the morning.



**Re: Brilliant!**



**tamnonlinear**

June 3 2008, 15:43:10 UTC

COLLAPSE

See, now I'm picturing you and your teammates curling up like a pack that's just come back to the den after counting noses. Wait, that's not what you meant (is it?).

Sleep is a very good healing strategy. Our brains use a lot of energy and our animal bodies don't need upper management in the way when it's dealing with ground level problems. Running in safe mode for a while. I'm a big fan of boring the illness-or-injury away.

Poor Chaz. How in the world is he doing on convalescent food? I can't imagine him having much patience with chicken soup and jello.



**Re: Brilliant!**



**trollcatz**

June 3 2008, 15:51:44 UTC

COLLAPSE

He's on a feeding machine, so he doesn't have to wake up to eat. I don't think you could keep him alive on chicken soup and jello, honestly.



**Re: Brilliant!**



**tamnonlinear**

June 3 2008, 16:38:07 UTC

COLLAPSE


Sorry. I didn't catch that part of the details, just that he's sick after an accident and out for a while. A feeding machine sounds terrible. He cares so much about good food and cooking for others. Can you put a chef's hat on it for us or something, to let him know we're all thinking of him?

My family tends more toward the "hey watch this" and power tool variety of accidents, which leads to patients who are bored and have to be convinced that they ought to stay in bed until the doctor says they're fine and not just until they're so bored that they're convinced they must be better.

Also, if no one has been by to feed Angry Kitteh for a few days, she may be reluctant to come out of hiding (more so than usual). Semi-ferals tend to revert to protective behavior fairly quickly. Just sharing this in case you don't see her. She's probably still around, just off muttering to herself in the shadows.



**Re: Brilliant!**

 **trollcatz**

June 3 2008, 16:43:30 UTC    COLLAPSE

Well, he's not spending enough time awake to stay fed, and at least with the NG tube he doesn't have to taste the Ensure.

The neighbor kids are feeding the Angry Kitteh. Food disappears from the bowl, which is encouraging.

**Re: Brilliant!**


 **cjtremlett**

June 3 2008, 17:25:04 UTC    COLLAPSE

With a feral, as long as food is disappearing, it's all good. Though ask the kids if there are other ferals around that could be honing in on her food. If so, you may want to compensate. But she does seem like a pretty territorial Kitteh!



**Re: Brilliant!**

 **tamnonlinear**

June 3 2008, 19:07:26 UTC    COLLAPSE

Well seeing as Angry Kitteh had a litter of kittens, we can be fairly sure there's at least one more cat in the neighborhood. :)

I'm glad she's eating. I'll look forward to the news that her human is in shape enough to be eating as well. I hope it's soon, and I wish him courage and healing in the meantime.

**Re: Brilliant!**

 **liret**

June 3 2008, 18:05:28 UTC    COLLAPSE

Gah, ensure. I had to come up with ways to make three bottles of that stuff a day tempting, when my grandmother was underweight. I ended up never wanting to see it again.

**Re: Brilliant!**

 **dichroic**

June 4 2008, 01:51:03 UTC    COLLAPSE

Mine decided she was ready to go and stopped eating. I think the Ensure they tried to get her to eat actually made that easier for her :-)

(She was 85, a widow for 15 years, and having increasingly frequent congestive heart failure, so this is not a heartbreaking memory for me, just one of a woman who made a

decision that seemed right to her and stuck to it. But I still cringe at the thought of Ensure.)

**Making Ensure Livable**

 [capecorey](#)

[June 6 2008, 00:53:14 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Bedbound paraquid delurking because, well, how often do I get to play at being the useful one?

Vanilla ensure \*powder\* + cream + ice cream + flavor of choice = increased ability to survive until strong enough to handle soft textured food.

My adoptive big sis is Senegalese born, European trained professional chef (among other things.) Could make Cowboy sweat. Soft /= bland.

Senegal-spiced pottage. Or chicken marinated to \*right\* before dissolving. Brisket. I eat v. well for someone w/tubes & O2 lines. Type v. slow, so recipes & tips are a by request thing, but will if useful to any.

Reading has given much vic. joy -- if walking is a dream, why not dream of flight? And yummy foodneepery.

Thanks, and all be well, esp Coyote.

**Re: Making Ensure Livable**

 [capecorey](#)

[June 6 2008, 01:42:34 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Um,\*very\* sorry 'bout clumsy phrasing there.

Me = 6 feet, even w/only mild tai chi magic for 'but you're \*paralyzed\*', need more calories than most in my sitch... nowhere near same level as the sweet boy, but do know odd tricks for acquiring such.



**Re: Making Ensure Livable**

 [trollcatz](#)

[June 6 2008, 16:13:51 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Huh. *Huh*.

Okay, I am going to find the appropriate person(s) and make them listen to those suggestions. (The ol' paramedic vocabulary still comes in handy for making medical professionals take me seriously. \*g\*) That high-octane milk shake sounds so good I'd drink it recreationally. Thank you!

If walking is a dream, why not dream of flight--yes. Oh, yes. U R smrt. Thank you for that, too.

**Re: Making Ensure Livable**


 [capecorey](#)

June 6 2008, 16:37:18 UTC   COLLAPSE

Back when I had 'chair, had many custom bumper stickers. Suspect your peeps would top 'em, but a fav was "I may be brain damaged, but I'm not stupid."

Just thought you'd like.

**Re: Making Ensure Livable**

 [rickybuchanan](#)

June 7 2008, 13:23:53 UTC   COLLAPSE

Wow, you're another bedbound person? w00t! May I friend you? Any friend of the penguin's must be a decent person :)

I go for the fancy T-shirts rather than the bumper stickers, but you may enjoy <http://nopityshirts.com/> - I plan to add bumper stickers soon. You can put stickers on bedheads and bed tables too, yanno - they are not only for those mobile peeps!

PS to TrollCatz, since it's your journal and all - does Chaz have any fewer tubes yet? He's freaking me out because I can't tell if the semi-coherent typing is the Good Drugs or the one handedness or he's still just out of it. \*worries\*

r



**Re: Making Ensure Livable**

 [trollcatz](#)

June 7 2008, 18:32:55 UTC   COLLAPSE

He's intermittently coherent. \*g\* Still pretty heavily medicated, right hand in a cast, and the tubes are going to be there for a while, I'm afraid.

**Re: Making Ensure Livable**


 [capecorey](#)

June 7 2008, 18:57:07 UTC   COLLAPSE

Of course, though I kinda never use it. <http://capecorey.vox.com/> is a spot(and has my fave pre-bedbound self present moment --  
<http://capecorey.vox.com/library/video/6a00c225257e458fdb00e3989997440002.1>  
)

Love the shirts.

Sorry to hijack space, but thanks for hooking up two mystic cripples, tc....(my nickname from my dojo days.)

 [almightychrissy](#)

[June 3 2008, 16:01:44 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)


(long-time reader, first time caller)

*the party of explorers, at the extremity of their strength, had the constant delusion that there was one more member than could actually be counted*

Well thanks, because my nightmare used to be realizing I'd left something undone and now I suspect it's going to be that and it will drive me MAD.

Also, a sincere thank you for that website. I might actually get through the whole poem now!



 [tamnonlinear](#)

[June 3 2008, 16:27:46 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Um. Sorry?

I love Eliot, but I find his level of appeal to me is a good gauge of my current mood. If I'm reading *East Coker* then I probably need to get out more. Beautiful words, but tends to lead me down mental paths I don't want to stay on, though it's good to visit. Like swimming in cold, deep water, refreshing until you stop moving, and then it's just chilling.

 [almightychrissy](#)

[June 3 2008, 18:43:04 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

My problem with Eliot is that Prufrock was in my high school textbook and I thought it was the most brilliant thing I'd ever read, but I've had serious struggles with a lot of his other work and I'm sure that I would enjoy it if only I could get my brain to process it properly.



 [atheilen](#)

[June 3 2008, 18:53:42 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

That is just exactly how I feel about Eliot. Thank you fo expressing it.



 [tamnonlinear](#)

[June 3 2008, 19:05:26 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I'm honoured that my words had meaning for you. Thank you.

It didn't occur to me until this comment thread that I haven't read, haven't needed to read, *East Coker* in a while. There was a period in my life where the lines about "Wait without hope, for hope would be hope for the wrong thing" were a lifeline, a call for patience and persistence that I badly needed to hear. It honestly helped to have that mantra, to hold on and wait, even if I didn't know what I was waiting for.



[inaurolillium](#)

[June 3 2008, 20:03:46 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I know just what you mean. I haven't read Eliot, but I think I'd have grabbed that phrase, too, at certain times in my life. I'm glad neither of us are there now.

[bunny\\_m](#)

[June 4 2008, 05:16:17 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Hear, hear. I'm glad that neither of you are there now, too.

I'm also glad that \*I'm\* not in that place.

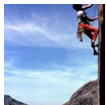
[cjtremlett](#)

[June 3 2008, 14:24:50 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I've had variations on that dream, too.

But it's very good to hear from you! Internet silence can mean so many things, from the really good to the really bad. Glad to hear everyone's safe!

*Deleted comment*



[trollcatz](#)

[June 3 2008, 14:49:01 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

He's hanging in there. Still sleeping more than not.



[fidelioscabinet](#)

[June 3 2008, 15:19:51 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Stable is good.

My brother-in-law has vivid memories from his teenage years of putting his foot through the floor of an old house he was exploring, out in the country, 20 miles from anywhere. He wasn't hurt, but he said he realized his new rule was "Never explore old houses alone", right alongside the "Never climb alone", "Never boat/canoe alone", and "Never hike alone" rules his parents had laid on him. I can recall driving into ditches a time or two while trying to read a topographic map without stopping, myself.

It's scary to think that even in this age of cell-phones and emergency car-satellite radio hook-ups people can still get themselves into serious trouble, without having to go too very far off the beaten path.


Maybe you all can get an RFID tag implanted in him while he's still too wobbly to fight effectively. It might be an easier sell if the rest of you offer to do the same, of course!

[sharaith](#)

[June 3 2008, 14:59:31 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)



It's always nice coming home after an Interesting Week. Sounds like you deserve some rest - without dreams.

 [edschweppe](#)

[June 3 2008, 15:00:31 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

*It was an Interesting Week\* last week*


Yikes. I've had a couple of those. Very much Not Fun.

I suppose it could have been worse, though. I recall an incident many moons ago where the folks doing a weapons load dropped a Tomahawk cruise missile into Pearl Harbor ... just as the tour boat from the Hilton Hawaiian Village came around the corner. Guess what story led the evening news that night?

(And now I know I'm getting old - that was nineteen years go, back when the USSR was still there to be back in!)

Anyway, glad to hear that folks are either well or on their way there.

**How much for just a fingernail?**

 [korvarthefox](#)

[June 3 2008, 15:05:44 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

I've always wondered about that: is there an amount you can tell us and only wound us? How much do we get for a light slap?

And re: nightmares, I've always wanted a scene in a movie or comic or whatever where someone does the **I am your worst nightmare** bit, and the hero's all "So *you're* 'going to work naked'? I *hate* that one..."

Glad to hear all and sundry are okay. Hopefully shoggoth and kitteh and other such dependants are also okay.

(I am now envisioning the get well card sent by the Angry Kitteh. It reads: I hate you. Where is my chicken?)



**Brilliant!**

 [trollcatz](#)

[June 3 2008, 15:10:21 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

In fact, I know how to get it signed.

**Re: Brilliant!**

 [alethea\\_eastrid](#)

[June 3 2008, 16:47:42 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

oooh, post pictures! I need to see this!

**Re: How much for just a fingernail?**

 [cjtremlett](#)

[June 3 2008, 15:22:40 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

That's the perfect idea for a card!




**Re: How much for just a fingernail?**

 **rekre8**

June 3 2008, 23:38:06 UTC    COLLAPSE

Terry Pratchett did the "worst nightmare" bit in one of the discworld books. I think it's also in Neil Gaiman's Sandman, but I may be mistaken.

**Re: How much for just a fingernail?**

 **korvarthefox**

June 5 2008, 16:49:51 UTC    COLLAPSE

Open letter to PTerry and Neil: Please stop having all my good ideas before I do. Thanks, Korvar.

Ps: please write more books

*Deleted comment*

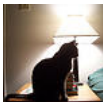


 **trollcatz**

June 3 2008, 16:35:43 UTC    COLLAPSE

I'm glad I'm home too.

I'm sure he'll be posting when he feels up to it.



 **txanne**

June 3 2008, 17:12:40 UTC    COLLAPSE

Sleep will keep him from being bored, at least. Please tell him we miss him.

 **kitryan**

June 3 2008, 17:29:43 UTC    COLLAPSE

\*sends love\*

\*sends wishes for best of health\*

 **cjtremllett**

June 3 2008, 17:30:23 UTC    COLLAPSE

And because I forgot to say something earlier (something about mornings and doing interviews for research and my brain being six million places), let us know if there's anything we can do! Care packages, silly cards, whatever help scattered internet friends can provide.

 **kayjayoh**

June 3 2008, 17:31:08 UTC    COLLAPSE

Sleep is, in some ways, the best doctor there is. Glad to hear he is recovering.



**saoba**

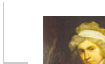
June 3 2008, 18:39:34 UTC    COLLAPSE

Whenever I happen to be out and encounter cops/fire crews/ ambulance crews at places like diners and convenience stores my standard operating procedure is to nod, smile and tell them 'You have a boring shift, okay?'.

Because too often, in their line of work Interesting is Not Good.

I HATE that dream. In my version of it I'm invisible and nobody can hear me trying to tell them. Gah.

You guys get some rest. I imagine that as Chaz starts feeling better keeping him still enough to get better might be a challenge. How does one entertain a bored coyote, anyway? Does he have music?



**fidelioscabinet**

June 3 2008, 19:07:32 UTC    COLLAPSE



Netflix might be in order. Prolonged exposure to daytime television can cause despondency and severe agitation, as well as despair over the fate of humanity.



**trollcatz**

June 3 2008, 19:13:11 UTC    COLLAPSE



DVDs, video games, MP3s, books, magazines. Right now they're just piling up beside the bed, though.

But that's okay. He's entitled to all the sleep he needs.



**For when he wakes up**



**saoba**

June 3 2008, 23:17:56 UTC    COLLAPSE

<http://www.yousendit.com/transfer.php?action=download&ufid=4981684B148C0BC6>

A song entitled 'Coyote' by Kan'Nal.



**saoba**



June 3 2008, 19:50:26 UTC    COLLAPSE

*Prolonged exposure to daytime television can cause despondency and severe agitation, as well as despair over the fate of humanity.*

After **grillghod** had his shoulder rebuilt there was a long period off work and doing PT 3 times a week. I was present for the following conversation

Himself: Please tell me you're going to sign the release so I can go back to work.

Very Good Doctor: I'm afraid not. Not yet. \*insert long description of progress and parameters\*


Himself: I'm serious. Even limited duty.

VGD: You've made a lot of progress but I can't do that just yet.

Himself: You don't understand. Good God, man, I'm starting to care whether or not Luke and Laura get back together!

(pause for outbreak of laughter from all present except the patient)

VGD: Consider it incentive to apply yourself in PT.

 dedoc

June 3 2008, 20:41:39 UTC    COLLAPSE

"...'You have a boring shift, okay?'. "

Just as long as you don't use the Q word.

But I'm not superstitious.

No. Not me. Nope. Nope.

 jennythe\_reader

June 3 2008, 21:01:12 UTC    COLLAPSE

I used to say something like that to my husband before he left for his weekly neighborhood watch patrol.

I'd tell him to "have an uneventful patrol."

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### Thank you

This is Patricia Andreoli, wife of Daphne Worth, who you all knew as Trollcatz. Daphne died

### ...And there goes the weekend

But hey, we got a day and a half of this one! And I got to sleep in for two whole mornings. Too bad

### As a law

enforcement  
professional--